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In this connection I desire most earnestly to divert to Your Excellency's attention the fact that American capital stands ready to assist in the development of the Djambi fields and other oil deposits in the Netherlands Indies.

In conclusion, I venture to say once more that my government attaches the highest importance to the recognition of the principles of the reciprocity and equal opportunity in the solution of the oil problems, as well as the extension to American capital, organized under Dutch law, of the same privileges and benefits which are granted to other foreign capital similarly organized under the laws of the Netherlands.

THE UNITED STATES AND IRELAND

During the presidential campaign the Republican candidate, Senator Harding, defined his attitude toward the claims of the Irish Republic for formal expression of sympathy by the United States Government in the following terms:

There are two phases of the so-called Irish question in America. Individual sentiment is one thing, and it is recognized that there is a widespread sympathy here for the cause of Irish independence. We voted an expression of that sympathy in the Senate at the time the peace delegates were conferring in Paris.

Official consideration is quite another thing. It is not a question for official America. America has already meddled abroad excessively without invitation. I have said, as I truly believe, that under the provisions of the League of Nations the Irish question is internal or domestic, and I recall distinctly that at the hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the American advocates of Irish independence bitterly opposed the League as proposed, because it not only closed the door to Ireland, but committed us to the use of force to maintain territorial integrity as it exists today.

Notwithstanding this refusal to accept the point of view of American-Irish promoters of Irish independence, a majority of them are assumed to have voted for Mr. Harding in order to register opposition to the League of Nations.

On the 17th of March, known and celebrated in Boston as Evacuation Day, the issue again took acute form. Under authority vested in them, the commanders of the military and naval forces of the government stationed in and near Boston, who had been invited to order their forces to share in the customary parade, declined so to do because the managers of the parade were planning to give recognition to the Sinn Fein and "Freedom for India" movements. In this neutral attitude the local commanders were supported by Secretaries Weeks and Denby of the navy. Whereupon the following appeal to President Harding was sent by a representative of the Irish-Americans:

To President Harding:

General Ruckman and Admiral Dunn, in press statements today, say that to permit troops to march in partisan demonstrations, especially one unfriendly to another nation, would be a breach of international amity.

Evacuation Day, March 17, is a local demonstration of loyalty and patriotism that no devotee of Toryism, no matter how exalted his position, can stop. Are these officials Americans or satellites of foreign governments? Ruckman and Dunn asked the officials of the Evacuation Day parade if the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic intends to participate in the parade. When they were told "yes," they warned against the parading with them of men in United States uniform, whether in service or reservists. Are they autocrats or is this a democracy? They say no authority can revoke this decree.

It is for Washington to say whether they are supreme. As Americans we demand action in the name of 125,000 citizens of our State now and the revocation of orders from Ruckman and Dunn.

To this letter President Harding, after careful consideration and following consultation with the Cabinet, replied in the following terms:

Your telegram has been called to the attention of the President, and he directs me to say in reply that army and navy commanders have authority to direct the forces under their command. The government raises no issue about the fitness of your celebration of Evacuation Day, and the spirit of St. Patrick's Day is felt throughout our country, but the naval and military forces of the nation can have no part in any demonstration which may be construed as influencing the foreign relations of the Republic.

Comment of the independent press of the country on the incident has indicated marked approval of a decision calculated to assure maintenance of the forms of courtesy and order in Anglo-American relations.

AMERICAN RELIEF

On March 26 President Harding sent to the American Committee for the Relief of Ireland the following letter:

I wish you the fullest measure of success, not only at the great benefit performance at the Metropolitan Opera House on April 3, but in every worthy effort to make a becoming contribution on the part of our people to relieve distress among the women and children in Ireland. The people of America never will be deaf to the call for relief in behalf of suffering humanity, and the knowledge of distress in Ireland makes quick and deep appeal to the more fortunate of our own land where so many of our citizens trace kinship to the Emerald Isle.

DONAL O'CALLAGHAN FORCED TO RETURN

The petition of Donal O'Callaghan, who came to the United States as a stowaway, though being the Mayor of Cork, that he be allowed to remain in this country on the ground of his being a refugee, has been denied by Secretary Hughes. Thus he acquires the status of an alien seaman and must re-ship at an early date. He has been lecturing and speaking throughout the country, favoring the interests of the Irish republic.

Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, late in April, followed an extensive argument, favoring recognition of the Irish republic by the United States, with a resolution to that effect, which will call for square facing of the issue by the national legislators.

PANAMA, COSTA RICA, AND THE UNITED STATES

When we last went to press the State Department had just received from the Republic of Panama a communication the text of which will be found on page 116 of the March issue of the ADVOCATE OF PEACE. It was suspected that it would draw from Secretary Hughes a prompt and unmistakable assertion by the United States that she expected the validity of arbitral awards to be accepted and enforced, and that further delay by Panama would not be looked upon with favor or with leniency.

On March 15 Panama was informed of the position of the United States, and the text of the communication was made